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Memorandum

To: Local Public Health Administrators, Hospital Emergency Departments, Regional Epidemiologist, and Regional Planners

From: Lloyd K. Jessen, R.Ph., J.D.
Executive Director
Iowa Board of Pharmacy

Mark Bowden
Executive Director
Iowa Board of Medicine

Date: December 1, 2009

Re: Dispensing of Antiviral Medications Released from the State Stockpile Through the Iowa Department of Public Health

The Iowa Board of Pharmacy and the Iowa Board of Medicine have been asked to clarify dispensing and labeling for antiviral medications released from the state stockpile through the Iowa Department of Public Health.

Dispensing

Clinics and physician's offices may dispense the antiviral medications released from the state stockpile (Tamiflu[®] for Oral Suspension, Tamiflu[®] 75mg Capsules, and Relenza[®]) if the following conditions are met:

- the prescriber of the antivirals is licensed in Iowa as a Physician, Nurse Practitioner, or Physician's Assistant
- the prescriber of the antivirals is physically located onsite
- the clinic/physician's office are dispensing directly to their own patients

Emergency Departments may dispense a complete regimen (5 day course for treatment or 10 day course for prophylaxis) of antiviral medications from the state stockpile (Tamiflu[®] for Oral Suspension, Tamiflu[®] 75mg Capsules, and Relenza[®]).

Labeling

Emergency Departments, clinics, and physician's offices that dispense antiviral medications released from the state stockpile must label the medication in accordance with their internal policies which may not include all information required by a pharmacy dispensing the same medication.

Physician Rules

Iowa Administrative Rule (**653, Chapter 13**) defines the standard of practice for packaging, labeling and records of prescription drugs dispensed by a physician:

13.1(1) -- A physician shall dispense a prescription drug only in a container which meets the requirements of the Poison Prevention Packaging Act of 1970, 15 U.S.C. ss. 1471-1476 (2001), unless otherwise requested by the patient, and of Section 502G of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. ss. 301 et seq.(2001).

13.1(2) -- A label shall be affixed to a container in which a prescription drug is dispensed by a physician which shall include:

1. The name and address of the physician.
2. The name of the patient.
3. The date dispensed.
4. The directions for administering the prescription drug and any cautionary statement deemed appropriate by the physician.
5. The name and strength of the prescription drug in the container.

13.1(3) -- The provisions of subrules 13.1(1) and 13.1(2) shall not apply to packaged drug samples.

13.1(4) -- A physician shall keep a record of all prescription drugs dispensed by the physician to a patient which shall contain the information required by subrule 13.1(2) to be included on the label. Noting such information on the patient's chart or record maintained by the physician is sufficient.

Additional questions regarding the antiviral medications released from the state stockpile can be directed to the influenzaah1n1@idph.state.ia.us email address or by phone to the health care provider call center at 1-877-386-9103 Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.